

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH - SAGAMORE, PA. - MARCH 30, 1997
SUNRISE SERVICE - 7:00 A.M.

GREETINGS/JOYS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

VBS MEETING TOMORROW - 7:00 P.M.
FRIDAY REV ED MC DANIEL SERVICE 7:00 PM
SATURDAY BARY SHOWER MRS MC DANIEL - COVERED DISH DINNER
CHURCH SERVICE 7:00 P.M.

*HYMN

PASTORAL PRAYER - EASTER PRAYER
CHILDREN'S PROGRAM ??????

*HYMN

SCRIPTURE: JOHN 20:1-18
SERMON: "WHOM ARE YOU SEEKING?"
IMN

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

SCRIP: JM 20:1-18; SERMON: "WHOM ARE YOU SEEKING?"

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MARY MAGDALENE WENT TO THE GARDEN TOMB TO VISIT JESUS

THE ORIGINAL INTENT WAS TO COMPLETE THE CEREMONIAL ANOINTING OF THE BODY OF JESUS FOR ITS PROPER BURIAL

ANOTHER PORTION OF THAT PLAN WAS THE CHOCOLATE OF THAT XXX AGE IT WAS CUSTOMARY IN VALENTINE TO VISIT THE TOMB OF A LOVED OR TRULY DEAR AFTER THE BURIAL

THEY BELIEVED TH/SPIRIT OF TH/LOVED ONE MOVED OVER TH/TOMB FOR 3 DAYS & ONLY AFTER THAT DID IT DEPART, FOR BY THEN IT WAS DECAYING

AN EXAMPLE OF THIS WAS AT TH/DEATH OF LAZARUS

JS HAD TOLD TH/FAMILY TO HAVE TH/STONE ROLLED FROM THE ENTRANCE THE REPLY OF MARTHA WAS THAT HE HAD BEEN BURIED FOR 4 DAYS & BY NOW THERE WOULD BE A STENCH FROM DECAY

THUS MARY COMES TO TH/GARDEN & WE READ - VERSE 1

VS 2-SHE REPORTS HER FINDING TO PETER & JOHN

JOHN DOESN'T IDENTIFY HIMSELF FROM BECAUSE NOT A BRAGGART

VS 3-4-JOHN MUST HAVE BEEN A LITTLE MORE ANXIOUS THAN PETER

(LIFE OF REV. WM BARCLAY ON THIS SUBJECT OF IMMORTALITY)

WE MUST LIVE TH/BEST LIFE WE CAN, NOT BECAUSE OF REWARDS, BUT BECAUSE OUR LIVES SHOULD BE DEDICATED TO SERVING OUR SAVIOR & WE LOOK FOR HIS REWARD

THIS AMRI C-STAR OF "WHOM ARE YOU SEEKING?"

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR AS WE GO THRU LIFE?

ARE WE LOOKING FOR SIGNS, OR REVELATIONS??

MANY PEOPLE TODAY, THEY SEEK TH/SUPERNATURAL, WISHING THEY R ON TH/PIKE TRAIL

(EXAMPLE OF 39 SUICIDES TO GO THRU "GATEWAY TO HVN")

(ILLUS ST CAL FIRM & DELIVER MESSAGE TO DECEASED FAMILY MEMBERS)

XXXXXXXXXX THIS IS OUT A FEAR OF SUP SOME

FEAR OF WHAT IS BEYOND BECAUSE THEY INVOLVE UNCERTAIN ABOUT LIFE BEYOND TH/STORY OF EASTER NOT COMPLETELY UNDERSTOOD

(ILLUS BOY ON EARTH & NEW BORN-AT TH/LORD HAS RHYTHM TODAY)

PAUL GAVE TH/ASSURANCE WE ALL NEED IN OUR QUEST THRU LIFE

READ ROMANS 8:31-39; 37-39 - THIS WAS ANSWER TO

THE QUESTION OF "WHOM ARE YOU SEEKING?"

VS 5-JN LOOKS, BUT DOESN'T ENTER

VS 6-7-PETER LOOKS, ENTERS & FINDS TH/GRAB CLOTHES JS HAD ON VS 8-THEN IN NUMBERS, & WE R TOLD BECAUSE WHAT HE SAW HE BELIEVED

VS 9-THIS TELLS US THEY DIDN'T KNOW THAT SPIRITUALLY THIS HAD BEEN TOLD

VS 10-THEN THEY WENT BACK HOME

VS 11-BUT MARY WASN'T LEAVING A SECOND TIME

SHE LOOKS IN AGAIN & NOW SOMETHING DIFFERENT HAD HAPPENED

VS 12-13-SHE HAD ENCOUNTERED W/ANGELS & CONVERSATION

VS 14-SHE STEPS OUT OF TH/TOMB & MEETS JS, WHOM SHE DIDN'T RECOGNIZE

VS 15-AT THIS POINT JS ASKS WHY SHE IS CRYING

THEN HE ASKS HER A VERY SEARCHING QUESTION

"WHOM SEEKEST THOU?" OR, AS WE WOULD SAY, "WHOM ARE YOU SEEKING?"

WE COULD ASK THIS QUESTION TODAY

BUT I THINK THERE R ACTUALLY 2 QUESTIONS THAT COULD & MUST ASK ON THIS EASTER MORNING

WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

FIRST, TO ASK QUESTION OF "WHOM ARE WE LOOKING?" WE NEED EXAMINE

EVERYDAY LIFE & MOTIVES

DO WE LIVE AT TH/THINGS OF THIS LIFE TOTALLY?

OR HAVE WE SET OUR EYES ON TH/THINGS OF THIS LIFE ONLY AS FOR OUR USE UNTIL WE R CALLED HOME TO GOD?

PAUL WROTE TO THE COLLOSSIAN CHURCH: IF THEN YE B RISEN W/XP,

SEEK THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE ABOVE WHERE XP SITS ON TH/RIGHT HAND OF GOD

WE MUST IN TH/WORLD, BUT WE R TOLD WE MUST NOT BE OF TH/WORLD IN OUR SECULAR SOCIETY MANY PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY OUR YOUNG R CALLED UP IN THIS LIFE & TH/THINGS OF THIS LIFE THAT THEY THINK ONLY OF THIS WORLD

YOUNG PEOPLE MAY TENDENCY TO THINK LITTLE IF ANYTHING OF ETERNITY

THAT'S LONG WAY OFF & BIG PROMISE COVERS, BUT DOES IT??

(EXAMPLES LAC 2000 WHO DIED DYING - 12, 11, 10, 9, 8, 7)

IT ISN'T HOW LONG WE LIVE, BUT WHAT WE DO W/LIVE WE LIVE GIVING

"WHERE ARE WE LOOKING?" IN THIS LIFE

PAUL WROTE 15TH CHAP 1 COR 2-PEOPLE WHO ONLY LIVE-FAT/DRINK/MERRY (READ VS 1-4; 12-17; & 20)

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

TH/ANSWER IS WE FIND IN A RELATIONSHIP W/JS XP

JS ASKS MARY MAG TH/MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION OF ALL

"WHOM ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?"

HE HAD DIED & WAS BURIED & THEY GRIEVED, BUT NOW HE WAS BACK & WAS NOT RECOGNIZED

TH/ANSWER TO THE QUESTION "WHOM ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?" CAN ONLY BE FOUND IN WHAT A PERSON PUTS INTO HIS OR HER LIFE, & THAT DETERMINES WHAT ONE GETS OUT OF LIFE

(ILLUS BERTHA BENDER IN JERUSALEM & BABY BOY NOEL)

SHE LIVED HER LIFE AS A CHRISTIAN CHILD

SHE LIVED HER LIFE AS TH/MASTER WANTS US: TO BE LIVING FOR HIM

TH/ANSWER TO WHERE, WHAT, & WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR CAN BE FOUND IN TH/HARTS OF EACH OF US

IF WE CARRY XP IN OUR HARTS & LOVE HIM AS OUR RISEN LORD, WE NEED

HAVE NO FEAR OF TH/PRESENT NOR TH/FUTURE

HE OVERCAME DEATH & THIS IS OUR JOY TODAY

LIK PAUL WE CAN PROCLAIM, "THANKS B 2 GOD WHO GIVETH US TH/VICTORY

THRU OUR LORD & SAVIOR JS XP

XP TH/LORD IS RISEN, HE IS RISEN INDEED

St. John Malenton 9:30 4-6-69

*Processional Hymn //7
*Choral Call to Worship
*Confession of Sin
*Assurance of Pardon
*Responsive Reading Pg. 583 Sel. 33
** ANTHEM
Scripture John 20: 1-18
Gloria Patri
*Apostles Creed
*Pastoral Prayer
Anthem
Announcements

Offering, Prayer
*Hymn //61
Sermon
*Prayer & Lord's Prayer
*Hymn //72
*Benediction
Threefold Amen

Salem Yamartine 11:00 4-6-69

*Processional Hymn //7
*Choral Call to Worship
*Confession of Sin
*Assurance of Pardon
Scripture John 20: 1-18
*Gloria Patri
*Apostles Creed
*Prayer
Anthem
Announcements

NO MEETING TODAY WITH CHURCH

Offering, Response, Prayer
Hymn //67
Sermon
Prayer & Lord's Prayer
*Hymn //53
*Benediction
Threefold Amen

My Redeemer Liveth

Text: John 20; 1-29

Last year on one of the Butler radio stations, I heard one of the announcers make the statement, "Easter is fast becoming another Christmas." He then went on to extol the merits of the product he was selling and how it would be much appreciated and accepted by whoever it was given to. I shuddered to think that perhaps the statement he made is true. However I do not think that we have reached the point of commercialization such as ^{WE HAVE WITH} Christmas ~~has become~~. It seems as though Easter does not have the sentimental effect as that of Christmas. We do have some commercialism but it is not as great. I see nothing wrong with the children enjoying their visit from the Easter Bunny. Provided of course that their parents take the time and the effort to ~~talk~~ teach them what the true meaning of Easter is. It should not evolve to the place where it is ~~just~~ just another day of feasting and revelry. Nor should it become a day in which we can show off all of our new finery. Each of these things can have their place in our celebration of Easter and rightly so. But if one or the other overshadows the real purpose then we could very easily have Easter become another Christmas.

In selecting our Scripture for this morning I read each of the Gospel accounts of the resurrection to see which I wanted to use. I chose John's Gospel because there was one sentence that Jesus spoke that made me stop and think. Mary Magdalene went to the tomb to visit Jesus. This is very similar to someone visiting a cemetery. It was the custom in Palestine to visit the tomb of a loved one for three days after its burial. They believed that the spirit of the loved one hovered over the tomb for three days and only after that did it depart, for by then the body was decaying. Upon looking into the tomb she saw that Jesus was not there. Instead she saw two ~~men~~ angels sitting there. She answered their question and turning around she saw Jesus but did not recognize Him. And His question to her was, "Who are you looking for." We could each ask this question today. But we should also add to it two more questions. We should ask, "Where are we looking," and "What are we looking for."

To answer the question of where are we looking we must look at our

lives and our everyday motives. Are we looking only at the vain things of this world, or have we set our sights upon the things beyond this life? This is a very important question for us to think about. Too often especially when we are younger we don't think much or even care about eternity. Because that is such a ~~in~~ ^{LOVE} ~~xxxxxxx~~ way off. We too often think that since the Bible speaks of the lifetime of man as being three score and ten that this a guarantee that we will all live this long. But this is not so my friends, and I don't think I need to point out specific examples of this. You all know of cases where people have died ^{BEFORE} ~~very young~~ and so do I. But it isn't how long we live that matters. It is what we do with our lives that ^{IS} ~~are~~ important.

Paul had this problem with the Church in Corinth. In the 15th chapter of 1st Corinthians we read Paul's famous chapter on immortality. He admonishes the Corinthians because of their lack of belief. They lived the motto of eat, drink and be merry. And Paul takes the opportunity to tell them of his ideas on the resurrection of Jesus. William Barclay ^{STAFF} ~~says~~ on this subject, "Take away the thought of a life to come and this life loses its values. Take away the idea that this life is a discipline and a preparation for a greater life to come and the bonds of all honor and morality are loosened." But we should live the best life we can. Not because of a promised reward, but because our lives should be dedicated to doing good and ^{doing} ~~being~~ the best we can. Jesus showed us the way and we should follow. ^{THAT IS THE WAY}

What are we looking for? Do we seek signs? Do we look for special revelations to lead us? Too often the answers are yes. A group out in California predicted that California was to slide into the sea and disappear on the 4th of April I believe. But it didn't happen. People everywhere are looking for signs of things to be. People are consulting everything from tea leaves to attending spiritual seances to contact the future. Why all this concern for the future? The only answer possible is a fear of what is to come. The reason for the fear is the fact that the life involved has not been lived as it should. If we live our lives in the service of mankind. That is, acting as the Lord wants us to, then we need have no fear of death or what is to ^{COME} ~~come~~. Paul again made this clear when he said that neither life nor death nor hell or anything else, shall separate us

from the love of God. What are we looking for? We should be looking to do the will of our Father and to live as He wants us to live. Then we can answer we are looking for the greeting at the end of life, "Well done good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Lord."

But Jesus asked the most important question of all, when He said, "Who are you looking for?" After He died, everyone thought that this was the end. They did not understand that He had said He would come back. So they grieved as anyone does at the loss of a loved one. But here He was in the risen body asking the obvious question, "Who are you looking for."

Some people go through life never knowing the answer to this question. While others show it almost all of their lives. The difference between them is what they put into life and what they take out. I heard of a rather wonderful thing on Friday on the radio. One of the disk jockeys was telling of a tour of the Holy land he had made four years ago. He said that he went to see a fairly famous woman who had written a book about wild flowers of the Holy land, and several others articles. She originally was born and lived in Chicago. But her father had decided he wanted to live as close to Christ as he could get, so he moved the family to Jerusalem. So this girl grew up there. ^{HER NAME WAS BERTHA BETER} ~~There is a~~ This announcer had a tape recording made with this woman and on it she told of an evening before Christmas eve. She was climbing a hill near Bethlehem. She and a group of young people were going to sing carols from atop the hill. On the way she met a man leading a donkey and on the donkey sat a woman. Another very old lady walked beside them carrying a bundle of very dirty filthy rags. The man asked this woman where he could get help for his wife. He said he had applied at the hospital and was refused. He said his wife had had a baby a few days before and was very ill. ~~This woman~~, Bertha ~~by name~~, ^{BERTHA WORKED IN THE HOSPITAL} examined the bundle of dirty rags and discovered that they covered a few days old baby. Bertha took the family into tow and went to the hospital and had the wife admitted. The next day she saw a ~~one~~ man standing at the gate at the end of her walk. It was a man and he called to her. She went out and here it was the husband to the woman who was ill. He begged her and pleaded with her to take his child, that he held in his arms.

He explained that his wife had died last night and he had no home other than a cave where he and his mother lived. He told her that she could give his son many benefits that he could not. So after much pleading she took the boy. She named him Noel, because it was on Christmas eve that she got him. With this one child as a start, ^{SHE SAW HOW THIS EXPERIENCE REMINDED HER OF THE BIRTH OF ANOTHER CHILD} she organized ~~xxxx~~ a childrens hospital and home. What this story points out is the fact that for this woman, Christ was alive and living in her. She had no doubts as to His resurrection. She lived her life as a Christian should. She lived it as the Master wants us to. She didn't need an answer to Jesus question of, "Who are you looking for?" She gave it in her deeds and her everyday life.

Many times we do not know what it is that we can't find, but we have the feeling that something isn't right. Something is missing. Have you ever had that feeling? Usually we will find that the thing that is missing has been with us all the time. And that is Jesus in our hearts, Jesus in our lives. He lives in each of us, and He is waiting today to help us as we travel our sometimes weary tiresome course through life. Yet from Him we can gain the strength we need.

The answers to where, what and who we are looking for, can be found in the hearts of each one of us. Our outlook on life, our feelings toward the rest of God's creation and how we look at our purpose in this life, all help to shape our individual Christianity. But if we carry Christ in our hearts and love Him as our Risen Lord we need not fear the present or the future. He will lead us and He will guide us. He overcame death itself and this is the joy and promise of Easter. Nothing can separate us from the love of God through Jesus Christ. This is the message for today and fo always. Let us pray.

THIS IS NOT JUST MERELY THE STORY OF HIS RESURRECTION ALL OVER AGAIN. SURE IT IS A NICE STORY, BUT IT REMAINS ONLY THAT A STORY. IT BECOMES A REALITY WHEN JESUS LIVES IN EACH ONE OF US. WHEN HE MOTIVATES US TO DO FOR OTHERS, TO SHARE OURSELVES & WHAT WE HAVE. THIS IS THE RISEN CHRIST. AND WE CAN SAY WITH PAUL, " "